

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 02815 260245Z
ACTION EA-09

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E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: REMARKS AT PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

REF: STATE 087741

PER REFTEL FOLLOWING ARE SUGGESTED REMARKS FOR USE BY
AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE ALSTON AT PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS
CEREMONY:

BEGIN QUOTE: EXCELLENCY:

I HAVE THE HONOR TO PRESENT MY LETTERS OF CREDENCE AS
AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY TO THE QUEEN
OF AUSTRALIA AND AT THE SAME TIME TO PRESENT THE LETTER OF
RECALL WITH RESPECT TO MY DISTINGUISHED PREDECESSOR AMBASSADOR
JAMES W. HARGROVE

I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO BE NAMED BY PRESIDENT
JIMMY CARTER TO BE HIS FIRST DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE TO
AUSTRALIA. WHEN I VISITED WITH HIM BEFORE LEAVING THE
UNITED STATES FOR AUSTRALIA, HE ASKED ME TO GIVE YOU HIS
PERSONAL GREETINGS AND TO ASSURE YOU AND THE AUSTRALIAN
PEOPLE THAT THE UNITED STATES PLACES VERY GREAT IMPORTANCE
ON THE CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN
OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

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THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES HAS GROWN
AND DEVELOPED OVER THE YEARS. THIS IS NOT SURPRISING, EXCELLENCY,
SINCE THE RELATIONSHIP IS BASED ON A SHARED LANGUAGE,
A SIMILAR HERITAGE, AND A COMMON FAITH. WE HAVE SIMILAR
DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND WE SHARE
COMMON IDEALS CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS AND PEACE AND

SECURITY IN THE WORLD.

EARLY AUSTRALIANS WERE A RUGGED, ROMANTIC PEOPLE, SIMILAR IN MANY RESPECTS TO OUR EARLY SETTLERS. YOUR FIRST SETTLERS ARRIVED IN SYDNEY HARBOR AND FACED A VAST CONTINENT UNTOUCHED BY WESTERN CULTURE, JUST AS OUR FIRST SETTLERS DID IN JAMESTOWN VIRGINIA AND IN MASSACHUSETTES BAY. THEY WERE UNDETERRED BY THE ENORMOUS DIFFICULTIES THAT FACED THEM AND OUR FOREBEARS PRESSED AHEAD TO DEVELOP NATIONS DEVOTED TO THE CONCEPTS OF LIBERTY AND JUSTICE DERIVED FROM A COMMON BACKGROUND OF BRITISH POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY AND LAW. IN PURSUIT OF THESE SAME IDEALS, BOTH OUR NATIONS LATER OPENED THEIR DOORS TO PEOPLE FROM OTHER LANDS. THE DIVERSITY OF OUR POPULATIONS HAVE ENRICHED OUR CULTURE AND MADE OUR NATIONS MORE AWARE OF OUR GLOBAL INTERDEPENDENCE THAN BEFORE.

OVER THE YEARS, OUR TIES HAVE BECOME EVEN STRONGER, TEMPERED BY WARS FOUGHT IN THE COMMON INTEREST AND BY DIFFICULT TIMES. IN AMERICA, WE PAY OUR RESPECTS TO THE WORLD WAR I VETERANS OF BELLEAU WOOD AND CHATEAU-THERRY. HERE ONLY RECENTLY ON ANZAC DAY YOU PAID YOUR RESPECTS, NOT ONLY TO THE VETERANS OF GALLIPOLI BUT ALSO TO THOSE OF TOBRUK IN WORLD WAR II. WE BOTH PAY OUR RESPECTS TO THE VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II IN THE PACIFIC -- THE CORAL SEA, NEW GUINEA, AND GUADALCANAL.

IN THIS INTERDEPENDENT WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE OUR TIES HAVE BECOME INEXTRICABLE. OUR ECONOMIC AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIPS ARE OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO BOTH OUR COUNTRIES. OUR CULTURAL TIES ARE CLOSE. YOUR CREATIVE AND ACTIVE FELLOW CITIZENS OFTEN JOIN WITH OURS IN A WIDE RANGE OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES. LAST YEAR, IN OUR BICENTENNIAL, THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET MADE A GREAT IMPACT DURING ITS TOUR OF THE UNITED STATES AND YOUR OPERATIC STARS AND YOUR POPULAR SINGERS ARE WELL KNOWN THROUGHOUT MY COUNTRY. WE HAVE OTHER TIES, NOT LEAST IN THE FIELD OF SPORT, AND I AM SURE THAT IN THE AMERICA CUP RACE OFF NEWPORT IN SEPTEMBER THE AUSTRALIAN CHANNENGER WILL GIVE THE AMERICAN YACHT DEFENDING THE CUP "A GOOD GO".

AMERICAN TOURISTS SAMPLE THE WONDERS OF YOUR CONTINENT AND ABOUT 100,000 AUSTRALIANS VISIT THE UNITED STATES ANNUALLY. THIS INTERCHANGE BETWEEN AUSTRALIANS AND AMERICANS IS OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE IN STRENGTHENING "THE TIES THAT BIND" AT A VERY PERSONAL LEVEL. I KNOW THAT AS I TRAVEL ABOUT YOUR VAST COUNTRY, WHICH I WILL DO IMMEDIATELY, THAT I WILL MEET SOMEONE

WHEREVER I GO WHO HAS BEEN IN THE UNITED STATES AND HAS
AMERICAN FRIENDS.

OUR TWO COUNTRIES, EXCELLENCY, HAVE BEEN GREATLY
FAVORED IN THAT WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH A LARGE SHARE
OF THE WORLD'S RICHES. I BELIEVE IT IS OUR COMMON TASK
TO MAXIMIZE THESE RICHES, NOT ONLY TO THE BENEFIT OF OUR
FELLOW CITIZENS, BUT TO USE THEM AMONG THE PEOPLES OF THE
WORLD TO NURTURE AND PRESERVE LIBERTY, HUMAN DIGNITY, AND
SELF RESPECT. WE MAY SOMETIMES DISAGREE ON SPECIFIC
APPROACHES TO PROBLEMS -- WHETHER THEY BE POLITICAL, SOCIAL
OR ECONOMIC -- BUT I AM SURE THAT WE WILL ALWAYS AGREE ON THE
IMPORTANCE OF THESE IDEALS WHICH ARE FUNDAMENTAL TO OUR
COMMON POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY. END QUOTE PERCIVAL

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